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IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims as currently presented and under consideration, are presented below for the Examiner's convenience and to comply with 37 CFR §1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric comprising treating said polyester with a polyesterase enzyme which, in a PET UV and a MB assay having controls without the polyesterase enzyme, produces at least a 10% greater absorbance than an absorbance of the control, the treatment occurring prior to the application of a finish and for a time and under conditions to modify the properties of said polyester, wherein said modified properties of said treated polyester are selected from the group consisting of pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance and luster properties of said polyester.
2. Cancelled
3. Cancelled
4. Cancelled
5. Cancelled
6. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyesterase has at least 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme in a UV and a MB assay.
7. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, wherein said polyesterase has at least 100% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without polyesterase enzyme in a UV and a MB assay.
8. Cancelled
9. Cancelled

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10. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyesterase is derived from animal, plant, fungal or bacterial origin.

11. (Original) The method according to claim 7, wherein said polyesterase is derived from *Absidia spp.*; *Acremonium spp.*; *Agaricus spp.*; *Anaeromyces spp.*; *Aspergillus spp.*; *Aeurobasidium spp.*; *Cephalosporum spp.*; *Chaetomium spp.*; *Coprinus spp.*; *Dactylium spp.*; *Fusarium spp.*; *Gliocladium spp.*; *Helminthosporum spp.*; *Humicola spp.*; *Mucor spp.*; *Neurospora spp.*; *Neocallimastix spp.*; *Orpinomyces spp.*; *Penicillium spp.*; *Phanerochaete spp.*; *Phlebia spp.*; *Piromyces spp.*; *Pseudomonas spp.*; *Rhizopus spp.*; *Schizophyllum spp.*; *Trametes spp.*; *Trichoderma spp.*; and *Ulocladium spp.*; *Zygorhynchus spp.*; *Bacillus spp.*; *Cellulomonas spp.*; *Clostridium spp.*; *Myceliophthora spp.*; *Thermomonospora spp.*; *Thermomyces spp.*; *Streptomyces spp.*; *Fibrobacter spp.*; *Candida spp.*; *Pichia spp.*; *Rhodotorula spp.*; or *Sporobolomyces spp.*.

12. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying the textile characteristics of a polyester article prior to the application of a finish to the article, comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining a polyesterase enzyme, wherein said polyesterase enzyme has at least 10% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without polyesterase enzyme in a PET UV assay and a MB assay;

(b) contacting said polyesterase enzyme with said polyester article under conditions and for a time suitable for said polyesterase to produce a modified polyester article; and

(c) producing a modified polyester article.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said polyester fiber, yarn or fabric is subsequently incorporated into a textile.

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14. Cancelled

15. Cancelled

16. Cancelled

17. Cancelled

18. (Original) The method according to claim 1, wherein said treatment occurs in the presence of polypropylene glycol or glycerol.

19. Cancelled

20. Cancelled

21. (Previously Presented) A method for enzymatically modifying the characteristics of a unsoiled aromatic polyester textile comprising; treating said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme which produces in a PET UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme, the treatment for a time and under conditions to modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.

22. (Original) The method according to claim 21, wherein said polyesterase is derived from a *Pseudomonas* spp.

23. (Previously Presented) A method for modifying the surface of an aromatic polyester resin, film, fiber, yarn or fabric comprising, (a) contacting said polyester, prior to the application of a finish, with a polyesterase enzyme which produces in a PET UV and a MB assay at least a 50% greater absorbance than an absorbance of a control without the polyesterase enzyme, the treatment for a time and under conditions to

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modify the textile properties of said polyester, wherein said modified textile properties of the treated polyester comprise the pilling, pilling prevention, weight, feel, appearance or luster properties of said polyester.